

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TRSE-00 ACDE-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12
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O 121718Z JUL 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1943

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 GENEVA 10631

FOR PA AND PA/PRESS, DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR
DR. BREZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT - PRESS REMARKS

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRESS BRIEFING BY HODDING CARTER
AT CLOSE OF MORNING SESSION WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1978, AT
13:15, HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL, GENEVA:

MR. CARTER: GOOD AFTERNOON. THE MORNING MEETING LASTED,
INCLUDING PICTURE-TAKING, FOR AN HOUR AND 45 MINUTES.
SECRETARY VANCE DID THE TALKING FOR THE AMERICAN DELE-
GATION, ESSENTIALLY PRESENTED OUR POINT OF VIEW ON SALT.
THE SOVIET DELEGATION AT THE CONCLUSION ASKED THEN FOR A
RECESS TO CONSIDER WHAT WE HAD TO SAY. WE WILL MEET AS
SCHEDULED THIS AFTERNOON IN THE SAME PLACE. THERE WAS A
PRELIMINARY, AND I MIGHT ADD ORDINARY, INITIAL MEETING
BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE, MR. WARNKE, AND MR. TOON WITH
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FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS. THIS WAS
ESSENTIALLY A PROCEDURE-SETTING MEETING--STRIKE THE WORD
ESSENTIALLY--THIS WAS A PROCEDURE-SETTING MEETING. IT
CARRIED NO OTHER FREIGHT.

THE TWO GROUPS DO INTEND TO MEET AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON AND
AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING, WITH THE POSSIBILITY HELD OPEN FOR

TOMORROW AFTERNOON. THERE WILL BE NO EXCHANGES OF MEALS, NO RECIPROCAL DINNERS, THAT SORT OF THING. THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE CONCERNED AGAIN PRIMARILY WITH SALT. SALT WAS THE ONLY TOPIC THIS MORNING. I DON'T HAVE A CHARACTERIZATION OF THE MEETING FOR YOU BECAUSE IT DID NOT TAKE THE FORM THAT I COULD CHARACTERIZE. THAT IS TO SAY, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BETTER CHARACTERIZE WHAT HAPPENS THIS AFTERNOON AFTER THE SOVIETS COME BACK IN. I THINK YOU ALL SAW WHO WAS ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. IF NOT, I WILL JUST VERY QUICKLY GO DOWN THE LIST. MR. SHINN FROM THE EUROPEAN BUREAU. MR. SHULMAN, MR. BARTHOLOMEW OF THE NSC, AMBASSADOR EARLE, MR. WARNKE, SECRETARY VANCE, MR. KRIMER WHO IS OUR INTERPRETER, AMBASSADOR TOON, MR. GELB, MR. SLOCOMBE FROM ISA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

ON THE SOVIET SIDE WE HAVE MR. MAKHAROV, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO MR. GROMYKO, AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, MR. GROMYKO, MR. SUKHADREYEV, MR. KORNIENKO, MR. KOMPLEKTOV, MR. SEMYENOV, MR. SHCHUKIN OF THEIR SALT DELEGATION AND MR. DETINOV, WHO IS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WITH PARTICULAR PORTFOLIO ON DEFENSE INDUSTRY MATTERS. I AM AFRAID THAT THAT PRETTY WELL EXHAUSTS MY FUND OF USEFUL INFORMATION.

QUESTION: YOU SPOKE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE
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PROCEDURES SET AT THE MEETING, I TAKE IT THAT IS WHEN THEY SET OUT WHAT THE VARIOUS MEETINGS WOULD COVER?

ANSWER: HOW THEY WOULD PROCEED, I.E., THE AMERICAN SIDE WOULD PRESENT SOMETHING THIS MORNING, THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY TAKE IT UP AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON, THAT ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL THAT THEY WOULD DEAL WITH OTHER BI-LATERAL MATTERS.

QUESTION: THAT IS WHAT I AM GETTING AT - WHEN THEY HAD THAT PROCEDURE-SETTING MEETING THE AMERICANS TELL THE SOVIETS SPECIFICALLY THAT ONE OF THE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IS THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION?

ANSWER: I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE CONVERSATION THEY HAD. SUFFICE IT TO SAY YOU HAD INDICATED TO YOU BEFORE WE GOT HERE AMONG THE SUBJECTS WHICH WOULD BE RAISED IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AND CLEARLY THE QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN OUT OF THE DISSIDENT TRIALS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE ONE OF THEM.

QUESTION: MAY I ASK YOU ONE OTHER QUESTION PLEASE. IN YOUR OPENING REMARKS YOU TALKED ABOUT PRESENTING OUR POINT OF VIEW. WOULD YOU CALL THAT A PROPOSAL, OR WAS IT A RESTATEMENT OF OUR PREVIOUS POINT OF VIEW?

ANSWER: AGAIN, I AM AFRAID ALL I AM GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY IS WE MADE A PRESENTATION TO THEM IN THE AREA OF SALT, AND I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHARACTERIZE IT.

QUESTION: A DETAIL: THEY WALKED INTO THE ROOM AT 10:05 AND GROMYKO WAS OUT AGAIN BEFORE 11:30. HOW CAN YOU MAKE THAT AN HOUR AND 45 MINUTES?

ANSWER: THAT WAS THE TIME I WAS GIVEN. THEY TOLD ME A

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O 121718Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1944
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 GENEVA 10631

FOR PA AND PA/PRESS, DEPT PASS NSC FOR
DR. BREZEZINSKI AND WHITEHOUSE FOR MR POWELL

TOTAL ELAPSED TIME OF PORTAL TO PORTAL - IT MAY HAVE
BEEN MEANING OUR DELEGATION.

QUESTION: UNLESS I MISSED SOMETHING - THEY, THE SOVIETS,
DID NOT MAKE A PRESENTATION?

ANSWER: THAT IS CORRECT.

QUESTION: WERE WE EXPECTING THEM TO MAKE A
PRESENTATION?

ANSWER: I AM NOT AWARE OF OUR BEING AWARE OF SUCH A THING.

QUESTION: WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION TODAY, ANY QUESTIONS, ANSWERS OR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF OUR PROPOSALS?

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ANSWER: I BELIEVE THERE WERE SOME EXCHANGES.

QUESTION: HODDING, I BELIEVE WHY YOU GOT THE ONE HOUR AND 45 MINUTES IS THAT...

ANSWER: I AM BEING CORRECTED ON THAT: OUR DELEGATION WAS PORTAL TO PORTAL ONE HOUR AND 45 MINUTES.

QUESTION: THEN HOW MUCH OF THAT TIME DID VANCE ACTUALLY PRESENT THE PROPOSAL?

ANSWER: WELL, TO BEGIN WITH YOU UNDERSTAND THAT BY THE TIME THE PICTURE-TAKING WAS OVER X AMOUNT OF TIME HAD GONE BY, YOU ALL KNOW WHAT TIME IT WAS WHEN YOU LEFT; THEN THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO SMALL GROUPS TOOK ABOUT 10 MINUTES OR SO. I SHOULD SUPPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT THE ELAPSED TIME OF THE ACTUAL PRESENTATION WAS AN HOUR.

QUESTION: SO THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AT ALL?

ANSWER: NO, I SAID THAT I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THERE WAS SOME EXCHANGE, BUT THAT THE REPLY, THE SOVIET CONSIDERATION OF OUR PRESENTATION, AND THEREFORE A FORMAL KIND OF SOVIET EXPOSITION DID NOT TAKE PLACE THIS MORNING, BECAUSE THEY ASKED IN FACT THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO PUT OFF UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON.

QUESTION: WAS THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER DELIVERED TO GROMYKO THIS MORNING?

ANSWER: I THINK I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING THAT TOOK PLACE. AND THAT WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE SO FAR WAS THE SETTING OF THE PROCEDURE AND DISCUSSION OF SALT.

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QUESTION: WHEN IS THE AFTERNOON MEETING?

ANSWER: THAT IS AS SCHEDULED.

QUESTION: WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS MEETING WAS TO START
30 MINUTES AFTER THE END OF THE TALKS. WHY THE DELAY,
DID YOU HAVE TO CONSULT WASHINGTON ON WHAT YOU SAID NOW?

ANSWER: MEETING?

QUESTION: THIS BRIEFING.

ANSWER: I WAS CONSULTING MORPHEUS, AND I UNFORTUNATELY
OVERSLEPT.

QUESTION: DID OUR SALT PRESENTATION INCLUDE THE MAP.

ANSWER: YOU REALIZE I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO
DETAILS ABOUT WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT.

QUESTION: THEY SAID THEY ARE GOING TO RESPOND THIS
AFTERNOON OR THEY WANT TIME TO CONSIDER AND THAT THEY
MAY SAY SOMETHING ELSE?

ANSWER: WE EXPECT A RESPONSE THIS AFTERNOON.

QUESTION: IS IT A FAIR ASSUMPTION THAT BECAUSE THEY
ASKED FOR THE RECESS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD SOME-
THING DIFFERENT TO SAY THAN IT DID THE LAST TIME?

ANSWER: I CAN'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS OR CONCLUSIONS FOR
YOU. I REALLY DON'T HAVE A COMMENT.

QUESTION: THESE MEETINGS USUALLY DO INCLUDE A MEAL OR
TWO. WOULD IT BE FAIR OF US TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS
ABOUT THE CLIMATE ON THE ABSENCE OF SUCH MEALS?
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ANSWER: I THINK I WOULDN'T LEAD YOU IN THAT DIRECTION.

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O 121718Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1945
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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I WOULD LEAD YOU MORE IN THE DIRECTION OF THERE ARE
ONLY THREE AVAILABLE MEALS IN ANY CASE. THERE WAS NO
WAY OF BEING SURE OF HOW LONG ONE OF THE MEETINGS WOULD
GO AND THAT SIMPLY DID NOT SEEM TO BE A VERY TIMELY IDEA.

QUESTION: WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO HAVE DISCUSSION OF
ISSUES OTHER THAN SALT THAT WERE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED
FOR THIS AFTERNOON?

ANSWER: THE PROBABILITY IS THAT, DEPENDING ON THE
LENGTH OF RESPONSE AND WHATEVER IT MAY RAISE, THAT
SOME OTHER ITEMS MIGHT ARISE THIS AFTERNOON. THEY
CERTAINLY WILL ARISE TOMORROW MORNING.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE REASON FOR NOT HAVING THESE MEALS
TOGETHER? OR IS SOMEBODY ON A DIET?

ANSWER: MUTUAL CONSENT. EVERYBODY IS WELL THIS TIME.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY PRESENT PLAN FOR A ONE ON ONE
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VANCE-GROMYKO?

ANSWER: I AM NOT AWARE AT THIS POINT OF A VANCE TO
GROMYKO, BUT IF THERE IS, I WILL TELL YOU.

QUESTION: WILL THE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST BE
RAISED BY THE AMERICAN DELEGATION?

ANSWER: I THINK WE HAVE A NUMBER OF MATTERS OF BOTH
GLOBAL AND BI-LATERAL NATURE WHICH ARE OF MUTUAL
INTEREST, AND ONE IS THE MIDDLE EAST. I WOULD THINK

THAT THAT WOULD ARISE AT SOME POINT.

QUESTION: WHY WAS AN ADDITIONAL MEETING ON PROCEDURE REQUIRED?

ANSWER: IT WASN'T AN ADDITIONAL MEETING ON PROCEDURE. HE INVARIABLY HAS DONE THIS. OF THE SALT TALKS I HAVE BEEN TO, IN ALL BUT ONE HE HAS MET INITIALLY WITH MR. GROMYKO IN A SMALLER MEETING, VERY SHORT, JUST SIMPLY TO MAKE VERY SURE THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT EACH WANTED TO DO AND HOW THEY WANTED TO GO AT IT. JUST IN CASE THERE WAS A LAST MINUTE CHANGE ON EITHER SIDE.

QUESTION: THEN NOTHING WAS HANDED FROM ONE TO THE OTHER?

ANSWER: I REALLY TOLD YOU EVERYTHING THEY DID, YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO NOT TELL YOU SINCE THAT WOULD TAKE ONE BURDEN OFF MY BACK IN THESE BRIEFINGS.

QUESTION: THE PRESENTATION THAT WAS MADE TODAY - HAD THE RUSSIANS HAD ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE CONTENTS OR NOT?

ANSWER: NO. WELL THEY HADN'T SEEN THE PRESENTATION, UNCLASSIFIED

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NO.

QUESTION: BUT THE DETAILS WERE QUITE()?

ANSWER: I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO GO INTO ALL THAT. THEY HADN'T SEEN THE PRESENTATION OBVIOUSLY.

QUESTION: THIS AFTERNOON'S SESSION WAS TO HAVE BEEN ON OTHER SUBJECTS, RIGHT?

ANSWER: THAT'S RIGHT. BUT I AM SAYING BECAUSE OF THE REQUEST -- AS A MATTER OF FACT IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN IN THE MINDS OF THOSE I HAVE TALKED TO AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL COME IN IMMEDIATELY OR WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE A SHORT DISCUSSION ON SOMETHING ELSE AND THEN GO INTO THIS, BUT THE EXPECTATION IS THAT THEY WILL COME IN IMMEDIATELY WITH A RESPONSE TO THIS MORNING'S PRESENTATION WHICH WAS ON SALT.

QUESTION: BUT WHETHER THEY DO OR NOT, IT IS THE SOVIET'S TURN AT BAT?

ANSWER: THEY CERTAINLY NOW ARE IN A POSITION OF RESPONDING. -

QUESTION: AND SINCE THEY ARE NOT TERRIBLY ANXIOUS TO

DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD IT BE ENTIRELY UNFAIR TO
CONCLUDE THAT WHATEVER DISCUSSION THERE WAS TO HAVE
BEEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HOWEVER BRIEF OR LENGTHY, HAS
NOW BEEN DELAYED?

ANSWER: YOU CAN HARDLY DRAW THAT CONCLUSION UNTIL THE
MEETING TAKES PLACE. AND SECOND. I DON'T KNOW THAT
IT HAS ANY PARTICULAR WEIGHT TO IT SINCE THE FACT OF A
CONTINUING DISCUSSION ON SALT WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE SINCE,

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O 121718Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1946
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 GENEVA 10631

IN ANY CASE, AS WE HAVE SAID, OTHER MATTERS ARE GOING
TO BE RAISED.

QUESTION: WERE THE OTHER MATTERS THAT BARRY JUST
MENTIONED RAISED PROCEDURALLY THIS MORNING?

ANSWER: LET ME JUST SAY THAT THEY PRETTY WELL WORKED OUT
HOW THEY WERE GOING TO APPROACH THIS TWO-DAY SESSION.

QUESTION: WELL, HODDING, I DON'T LIKE TO KEEP BEATING
IT BUT

ANSWER: BARRY I PROMISE YOU THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT A LEAD, A SECOND LEAD, OR AN INFERENCE THAT
THE QUESTION IS NOT GOING TO BE RAISED.

QUESTION: NO, HERE IS WHAT I AM TRYING TO SAY, IF TWO
HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TALK ABOUT PROCEDURE ONE WOULD

ASSUME THEY TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT,
AND ONE IS SALT. NOW DID THEY AGREE WITH EACH OTHER WE
ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS?
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ANSWER: I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THAT, BUT
LET ME JUST SAY THAT YOUR QUESTION IS BASED ON SOMETHING
THAT ISN'T NECESSARILY TRUE. THEY COULD HAVE JUST BEEN
TALKING ABOUT HOW THEY WERE GOING TO PROCEED THIS MORNING,
FOR INSTANCE, MR. GROMYKO WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO? NO,
MR. ALPHONSE, YOU GO.

QUESTION: OH, I'M SORRY, I UNDERSTOOD THEY WERE
TALKING ABOUT PROCEDURE FOR THE TWO DAYS OF TALKS.

ANSWER: WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN
ANY NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES. THE CONVERSATION, AS I
WAS TRYING TO STRESS TO GET AWAY FROM HALF THESE
QUESTIONS, WAS ON PROCEDURE.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY INDICATION ON THE PROCEDURAL
DISCUSSIONS OF THE SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO
MR. VANCE?

ANSWER: I AM REALLY NOT ABLE TO GO INTO THAT AT ALL
... I NOTED MR. GROMYKO SAID YESTERDAY HE WAS HEAR TO
TALK ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS.

QUESTION: WAS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION ON
WHETHER THE MESSAGE THE PRESIDENT WAS SENDING HAD
BEEN DELIVERED - WAS THAT A CLEAR 'NO'?

ANSWER: I HAVE REALLY TOLD YOU EVERHTHING THEY DID.

QUESTION: WELL, WAIT A MINUTE - THAT IS REALLY OBTUSE.

ANSWER: NO, YOU'RE OBTUSE, I MAY BE OBFUSCATING.

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QUESTION: YES OR NO?

ANSWER: THE ANSWER OBVIOUSLY IS THAT THE ONLY MATTERS
THAT CAME UP WERE THE SETTINGAOF PROCEDURE AND DISCUS-
SION OF SALT MATTERS.

QUESTION: SO THE ANSWER IS NO, IS THAT RIGHT?

QUESTION: WILL THE SECRETARY TRY TO PRESENT THE MESSAGE THIS AFTERNOON?

ANSWER: I REALLY HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT. THE MESSAGE AS YOU KNOW IS IN HAND, THE MESSAGE WAS GOING TO BE PRESENTED, BUT WHEN IT WILL BE PRESENTED I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

QUESTION: DO YOU KNOW, WHEN WILL HE SEE MRS. SHCHARANSKY?

ANSWER: AS OF NOW, THE TIME IS TOMORROW EVENING.

QUESTION: BECAUSE SHE HAS CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR TOMORROW AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, AND SHE HAS CALLED IT FOR 3:00 TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

ANSWER: WELL, THAT IS ALTOGETHER POSSIBLE IF THERE IS NOT A TOMORROW AFTERNOON MEETING. BUT THE REASON FOR THE INITIAL SETTING WAS TO LEAVE OPEN THE TIME FOR A POSSIBLE MEETING. GIVEN THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN VERY KEENLY NOTED BY TWO OF YOU THAT WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD WAS THE SCHEDULE HAS ALREADY SLIPPED, I WOULD JUST SUGGEST THAT I WOULDN'T GO RUSHING FORWARD WITH STORIES TYING ANYTHING DOWN.

QUESTION: GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN THE ISSUES

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UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 GENEVA 10631

FOR PA AND PA/PRESS, DEPT PASS NSC FOR
DR BREZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR POWELL

OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE SOVIET TRIALS, AND THE SALT TALKS,
IS THERE ANY CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE SECRETARY AND
THE AMERICAN DELEGATION OF THE FACT THAT HE IS SEEING
HER IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS TALKS WITH GROMYKO OR THAT
THE SOVIETS MAY SEE SOMETHING IN IT AND MAY TAKE
OFFENSE OF THE FACT THAT HE IS SEEING HER IN GENEVA
IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS TALKS WITH GROMYKO?

ANSWER: I THINK THE POINT THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO
MAKE REPEATEDLY FOR A YEAR AND A HALF IS THAT YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO ONE AND NOT THE OTHER.

QUESTION: BUT WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT HE IS MEETING
HER IN THE SAME CITY IN WHICH HE HAS JUST CONCLUDED HIS
MEETINGS WITH GROMYKO AND THEREFORE IS IT NOT REASONABLE
FOR THE SOVIETS TO ASSUME THAT THERE MAY BE SOMETHING?
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ANSWER: I CAN'T DRAW AN ASSUMPTION FOR THE SOVIETS.
THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SECRETARY
OF STATE HAVE ALL SAID RATHER CLEARLY THAT THERE IS NOT.
END BRIEFING. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
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